

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 040544Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1356

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 4088

EXDIS

BEIRUT PLEASE PASS TO USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAN/IRAQI RELATIONS

1. AT AUDIENCE MORNING MAY 3 PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR TRIP ABROAD, THE SHAH TALKED A BIT ABOUT RELATIONS WITH IRAQ AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT VISIT HERE OF IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN.

2. THE SHAH COMMENTED THAT THE WORKING OUT OF AGREEMENTS WITH IRAQ WAS GOING FORWARD SATISFACTORILY WITH BOTH COUNTRIES ADHERING TO THEIR UNDERSTANDINGS. HE ADDED THAT NOT ONLY HAD SADDAM HUSSEIN RETURNED TO HIS SUGGESTION FOR A COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT IN THE PERSIAN GULF BUT HAD BROUGHT ALONG WITH HIM CONCRETE PROPOSALS WHICH WERE NOW BEING STUDIED BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. WITH A WRY GESTURE, THE SHAH ADMITTED THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD AGREED TO INCLUDING IN THE PROPOSALS THE PROPOSITION THAT EACH LOTTORAL STATE OF THE GULF WOULD GUARANTEE EVERY OTHER AGAINST LOCAL AS WELL AS EXTERNAL THREATS. THE SHAH COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS QUITE A DEVELOPMENT CONDIDERING THAT IRAQ WAS THE ONLY "LOCAL " THREAT AND THAT THIS MEANT IRAQ WOULD NOT MAKE ANY MOVE TO TAKE OVER KUWAIT. ADVERTING TO THE "EXTERNAL" THREAT, THE SHAH SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS  
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THE ONLY POWER WHICH HAD DISTINCT AIMS IN THE GULF AREA. THE

FACT THAT IRAQ WAS WILLING TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH SUCH A TREATY WAS TAKEN BY THE SHAH AS AN INDICATION THAT PERHAPS SADDAM HUSSEIN MIGHT BE WILLING TO WITHDRAW SOMEWHAT FROM SOVIET INFLUENCE. HE NOTED THAT THE SAUDIS BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS IN THIS RESPECT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE.

3. AT THIS JUNCTURE THE SHAH REVIEWED WHAT HE SEES AS THE RESULTS OF THE ALGIERS ACCORD WITH IRAQ. HE SAID THAT HE FEELS THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE EQUIVALENT TO ANYTHING HE COULD HAVE HOPED TO GET FROM WHAT HE HAS REFERRED TO IN THE PAST AS A "GOOD GOVERNMENT" IN BAGHDAD. HE RECAPITULATED THE RATIONALIZATION FOR HIS POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE KURDS, POINTING OUT AGAIN WHAT HE HAS DONE MANY TIMES BEFORE, THAT THIS POLICY WAS DESIGNED TO SECURE, EVENTUALLY, A FRIENDLY IRAQI GOVERNMENT. NOW, HE EXCLAIMED, LOOK WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT ANY CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT: (1) SETTLEMENT OF THE IRAN/IRAQ BOUNDARY QUARRELS; (2) SETTLEMENT OF THE SAUDI/IRAQI BORDER DISPUTE; (3) THE POSSIBILITY OF A COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY AMONG THE LITTORAL STATES OF THE PERSIAN GULF; AND (4) THE CHANCE THAT THE PRESENT IRAQI GOVERNMENT MIGHT PULL AWAY FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND MOVE MORE TOWARD THE WEST. THE SHAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE KURDS DID NOT GET THE INDEPENDENCE THEY WANTED, BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT TOWARD THE LAST THE KURDS WERE NOT REALLY FIGHTING AND HAD NO CHANCE OF MAINTAINING A STRONG MILITARY OPPOSITION. THE SHAH ADMITTED THAT IF THE KURDS HAD CONTINUED TO FIGHT HARD, HE MIGHT HAVE HAD A MUCH TOUGHER DECISION TO MAKE ABOUT WITHDRAWING HIS SUPPORT.

HELMS

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